

Unit 13--Section 3: Country Area Studies-- Gulf States

Objectives

At the end of this section, you will

Be aware of the following

- Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
- Suffrage issues in Kuwait
- Number of foreign workers in some Gulf States
- Formation of the United Arab Emirates
- Degree of religious freedom in the UAE
- Kharijite Islam school of thought in Oman
- Impact of Bedouin culture on Gulf States
- Kurdish concerns in Iraq/Iran
- Ethnic groups in Iraq
- Women's roles and military status in Iraq
- Distinct Shia practice in Iran
- Shia leadership in Iran
- Bahais and Zoroastrian practice and belief

Identify

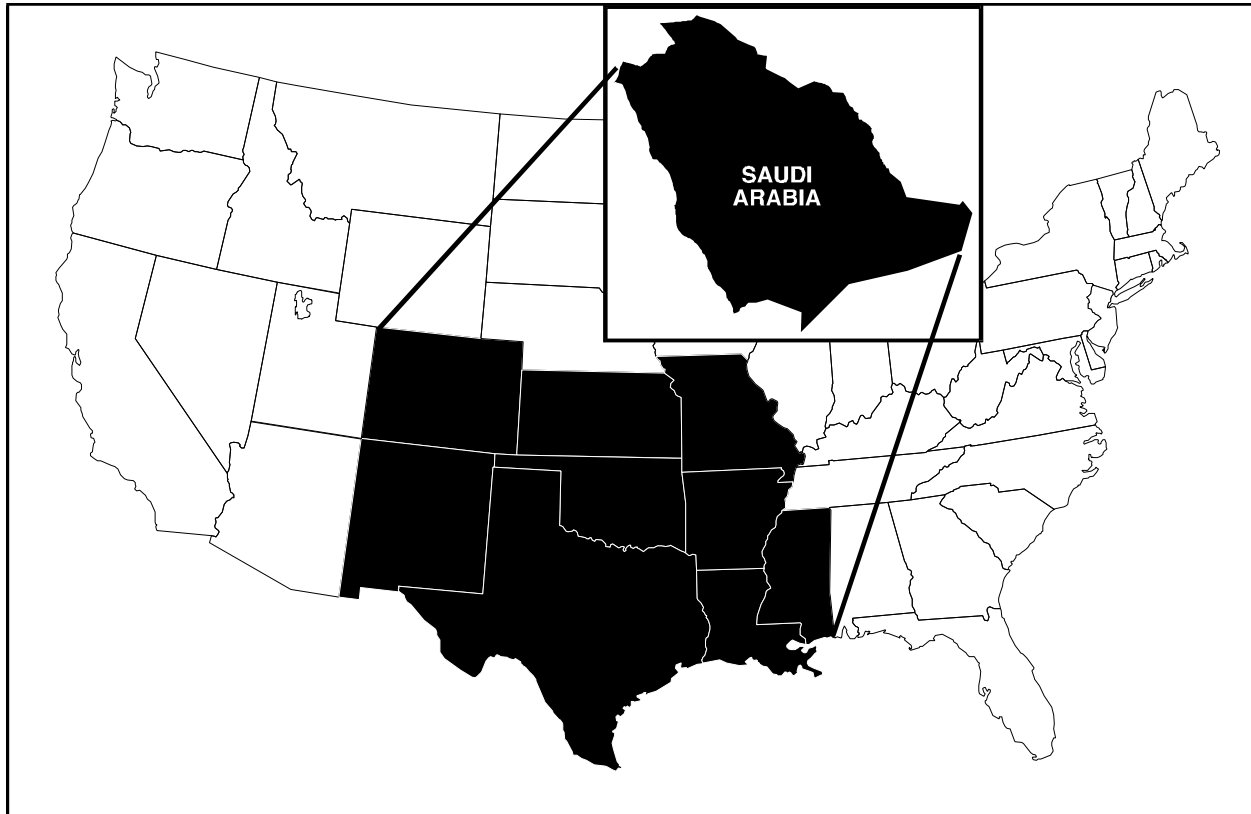
- Patriarchal
- Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
- Suffrage
- Expatriates
- Ibadi Islam, Kharijite Shia movement
- Amir
- Distinct Sunni and Shia practice in Yemen
- Kurds, Yazidis, Turkomans and Assyrians
- Fatima
- ALLAHU AKBAR
- Baath Party
- Good Works and Jihad practice in Iran
- Imamate, Mahdi
- Moharram, Husayn
- Mujtahids, ayatollah
- Bahais and Zoroastrian, Yasna

- Hejab
- Farsi

Realize

- Recent changes in status of women in Saudi Arabia
- Presence of fundamentalist extremists in Gulf Region
- Distinct role of women in Bahrain's work force
- Citizenship practice in the UAE
- Ibadi leadership distinctives in Oman
- Clannish nature of gulf society and influence upon leadership practices
- Historic cosmopolitan nature of gulf region
- Impact on Yemen of the Sha'fi Sunni school of thought
- Gender practices for urban and wealthy women in Yemen
- Female circumcision practice in Yemen
- Impact of Desert Storm on Iraqi society
- Shia/Sunni differences in Iraq's divorce and inheritance practice
- Status of Saddam Husayn in some Arab circles
- "God is Great" addition to Iraqi flag during the Persian Gulf crisis
- Presence of women in Iran's revolution

Saudi Arabia (sah-OO-dee ah-RAY-be-ah)



<u>Population</u>	18,729,576
% under 15 years	43%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:4
Radio	1:4
Phone	1:11
Newspaper	42:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	67/70
Hospitals	1:359
Doctors	1:523
IMR	49:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$11,000
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	62%

1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 100%

-- 95% Sunni (Wahhabi Interpretation)
-- 5% Shi'a (Reside near Al Ahsa and Al Qatif in Eastern Province)

- Public worship by non-Muslims prohibited

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Arab 90%
- Afro-Asian 10%
- In the 1992 census, 4.6 million residents were foreigners.
- Expatriate labor--34% of work force

3. Gender Issues

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- *"The purpose of educating a girl is to bring her up in a proper Islamic way so as to perform her duty in life, be an ideal and successful housewife and a good mother, ready to do things which suit her nature such as teaching, nursing and medical treatment...In practice, educational options for girls at the pre-college level were almost identical to those for boys...only boys took physical education, and only girls took home economics."* (Country Study, p. 98.)
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- Women constituted 7% of the work force in 1990.

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- *"Many of the state-supported restrictions on women...did not exist in the 1960s and 1970s. They were the product of attempts to reconcile family and religious values with opportunities and objectives that have grown out of the development process and of increased religious conservatism."* (Country Study, pp. 106-107.)
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- *"The continuing dependence of women on men...perpetuated the family as a patriarchal unit. Control of women ensured female chastity and thus family honor as well as*

the patrilineal character of the family. In Saudi society in general, the role of women was basic to maintaining the structure of the family and therefore of society." (Country Study, p. 68.)

4. Conflicts

- Disputed boundary with Yemen and UAE
- Ownership of Qarah and Umm al Maradim islands disputed
- Fundamentalist Extremists. For a discussion of the ties of Saudi Arabia with militant extremists, see God Has Ninety-Nine Names, p. 468. Author Miller points out that...

"Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman...convicted in 1995 of conspiring to blow up New York buildings, bridges, and monuments, preached for several years...in Riyadh." (Miller, p. 468.)

5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 23 Sep 1932, Unification of the Kingdom
- Traditional Islamic Holidays
- Workweek from Saturday to Wednesday

6. Customs

- Shar'ia entirely
- *"Guests in Saudia Arabia, whatever their nationality, are subject to the same rigorous Islamic law as Saudis. It is not uncommon for Westerners to be imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for possessing an illegal substance. Saudi law is draconian; thieves still have their hands amputated, and capital crimes are punished by public beheadings. Not surprisingly, the populace is quite law-abiding."* (Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, p. 322.)
- *"While Saudis are thankful for the protection of the United States and the Western Alliance in the Gulf War with Iraq, the government and much of the populace are ambivalent about the West. Western values are seen as decadent and threatening to the Saudi way of life. Any change in this attitude will come very slowly."* (Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, p. 323.)

- "The Matawain (religious police) enforce the modesty of dress in public. They have full civil authority to arrest violators. Indeed, where the jurisdiction of the civil and religious police overlap, the civil authorities generally defer to the Matawain. While the ranks of the Matawain include a surprising number of foreign-educated Saudis, the ones enforcing Islamic law on street corners--and there are many--are usually uneducated zealots brandishing camel whips. Western women with skirts that are too short can expect to have their legs whipped by a Matawah. Most Westerners fall afoul of them sooner or later. The Matawain can be neither reasoned with nor bribed, only endured." (Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands, p. 329.)
- King Fahd:

"...at Madina on October 27, 1986 (or 24 Safar 1407 AH in our Islamic calendar), [King Fahd] expressed the wish, in an official letter to Crown Prince Abdallah, that henceforth he be addressed only as 'Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,' and no longer as 'Your Majesty' or any other secular title." (Khaled bin Sultan, Desert Warrior, p. 23.)

7. Sources for Further Study

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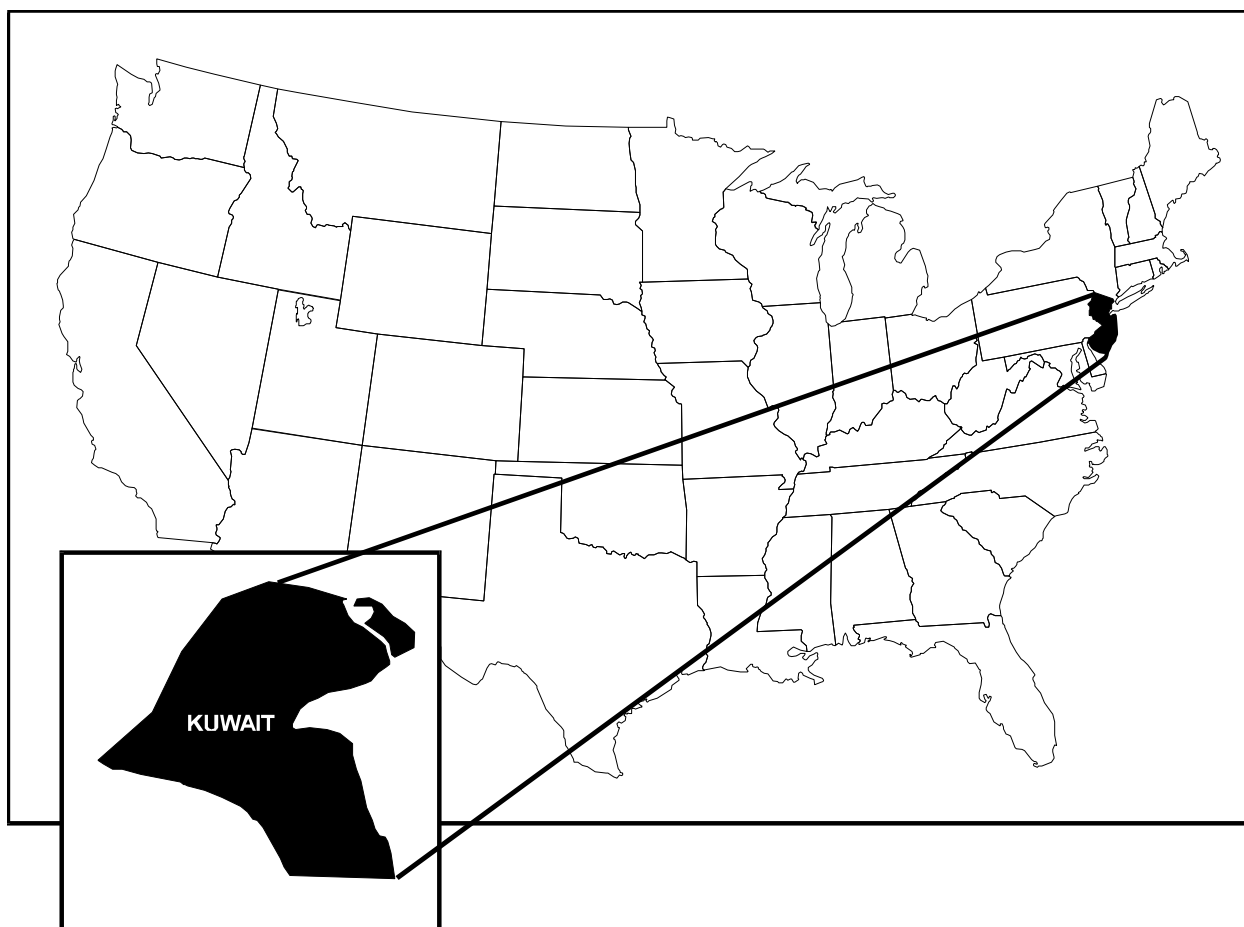
Canby, Thomas, "Persian Gulf After the Storm," National Geographic, Aug 91, pp. 36-59.

Jehl, Douglas, "A Tutorial for Young Saudis on Ways to Toil for Money," New York Times, 20 Nov 96, p. A1.

Jehl, Douglas, "Saudis' Heartland is Seething with Rage at Rulers and U.S.," New York Times, 4 Nov 96, p. 1.

Jehl, Douglas, "Saudis Crack Down on an Obscure Shiite Militant Group," New York Times, 31 Oct 96.

Gulf States: Kuwait (koo-WAYT)



<u>Population</u>	1,817,397
% under 15 years	34%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:2
Radio	1:1
Phone	1:4
Newspaper	55:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	73/78
Hospitals	1:347
Doctors	1:515
IMR	12:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$16,900
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	74

1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 85%
 - Shi'a 30%
 - Sunni 45%
 - Other 10%
- Christian, Hindu, Parsi, other 15%

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Kuwaiti 45%
- Other Arab 35%
- S. Asian 9%
- Iranian 4%
- Other 7%
- Expatriate labor--34% (Asian, other Mideast, African)

3. Gender Issues

- Suffrage: Adult males who resided in Kuwait before 1920 and their male descendants 21 years and older are eligible to vote (only 10% of all citizens are thus eligible).
- 1996 naturalized citizens (for at least 30 years) became eligible to vote.
- More than half the students at Kuwait University are women, as families are more likely to send boys abroad for study.

4. Conflicts

- *"Small, clandestine leftist and Shi'a fundamentalist groups are active."* (Country Study)

5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 25 Feb 1948--National Day
- 19 Jun 1961--Independence from U.K.
- Traditional Islamic Observances

6. Customs

"Oil pays for free medical care, education and social security. There are no taxes, except customs duties."
(World Almanac)

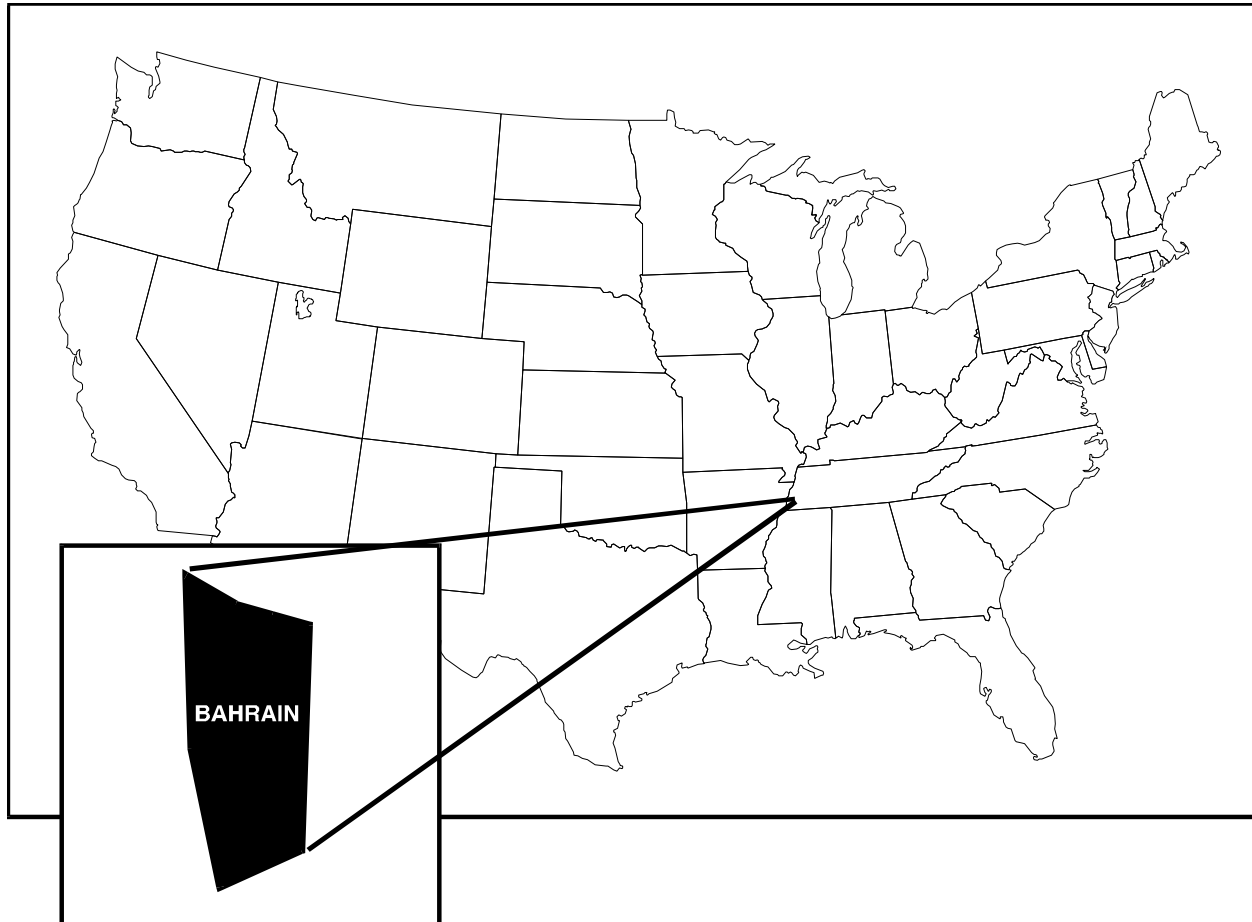
- Gambling and alcohol forbidden
- Islamic law based on the Shar'ia
- *"Westerners often become frustrated with the lax Kuwaiti attitude toward time. Kuwaitis seem to act as if they have all the time in the world. Just remember that the Kuwaitis consider Westerners insane for allowing time constraints to rule their lives. Kuwaitis view time as their servant, not their master."* (Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, p. 209.)
- *"Business people traveling to Kuwait should remember that the Kuwaiti merchant classes have been traders since before the United States of America came into existence. Kuwaiti business people are very shrewd negotiators; they have had centuries of experience as traders and should not be underestimated."* (Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, p. 211.)

7. Sources for Further Study

Canby, Thomas, "Persian Gulf After the Storm," National Geographic, Aug 91, pp. 36-59.

Jehl, Douglas, "For Kuwaitis, Self-Reliance Proves to be an Elusive Goal," New York Times, 23 Sep 96.

Gulf States: Bahrain (bah-R/N, bah-RAYN)



(Bahrain is about the land surface size of Memphis, Tennessee)

<u>Population</u>	575,925
% under 15 years	31%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:2
Radio	1:2
Phone	1:3
Newspaper	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	72/76
Hospitals	N/A
Doctors	N/A
IMR	18
<u>Income</u>	\$12,100
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	84%

1. Religious Groups

- Muslim
 - Shi'a 70%
 - Sunni 30%
- Non-Muslim foreigners
 - Christian 7%
 - Hindu 8%

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Bahraini 63%
- Asian 13%
- Arab (other than Bahraini) 10%
- Iranian 8%
- Other 6%
- Expatriate labor 53% of the workforce (Asian, Mideast, African and others)

3. Gender Issues

- No suffrage

• Women comprise 18% of all employees in the 1990s. They work outside the home in far greater numbers in Bahrain than in any other state of the Arabian Peninsula. Teaching, nursing and other less traditional roles define their place of employment.

- The law forbids discrimination against working mothers.

4. Conflicts

- Dispute periodically with Qatar over the Hawar Islands

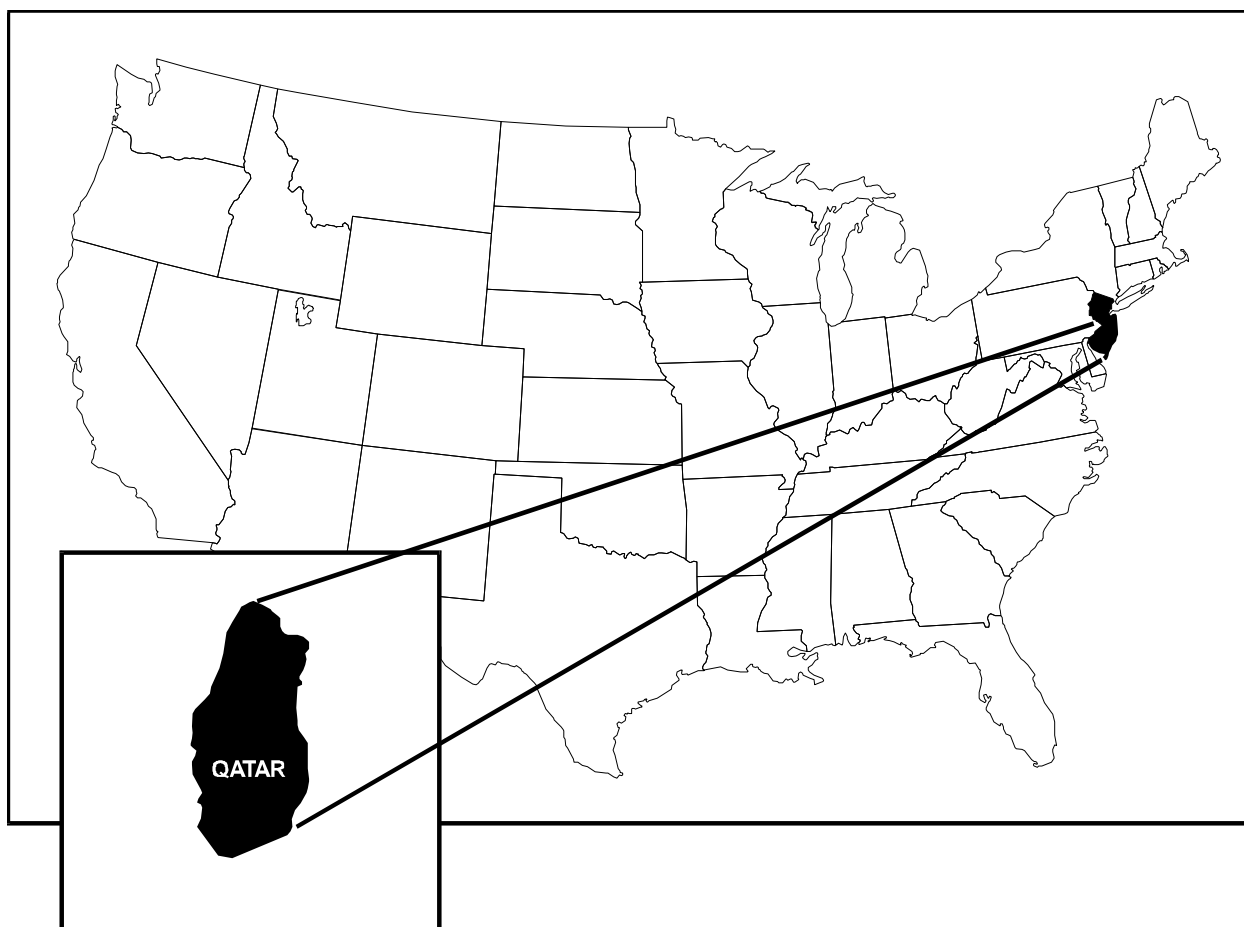
5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 15 Aug 1971--Independence Day from the U.K.
- 16 Dec 61--Independence Day National Day
- Traditional Islamic observances

6. Sources for Further Study

Jehl, Douglas, "Bahrain Rulers Say They're Determined to End Village Unrest," New York Times, 27 Jan 97.

Persian Gulf States: Qatar (KAH-tahr)



<u>Population</u>	533,916
% under 15 years	30%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:2
Radio	1:2
Phone	1:3
Newspaper	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	70/76
Hospitals	1:481
Doctors	1:671
IMR 20:1000	
<u>Income</u>	\$20,820
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	76

1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 95% (Wahhabi interpretation of Sunni Islam)

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Arab 40%
- Pakistani 18%
- Indian 18%
- Iranian 10%
- Other 14%

- Expatriate labor 73% of the total workforce

3. Gender Issues

- No suffrage
- 7% of the total workforce are women

4. Conflicts

- Dispute with Bahrain over Hawar Islands

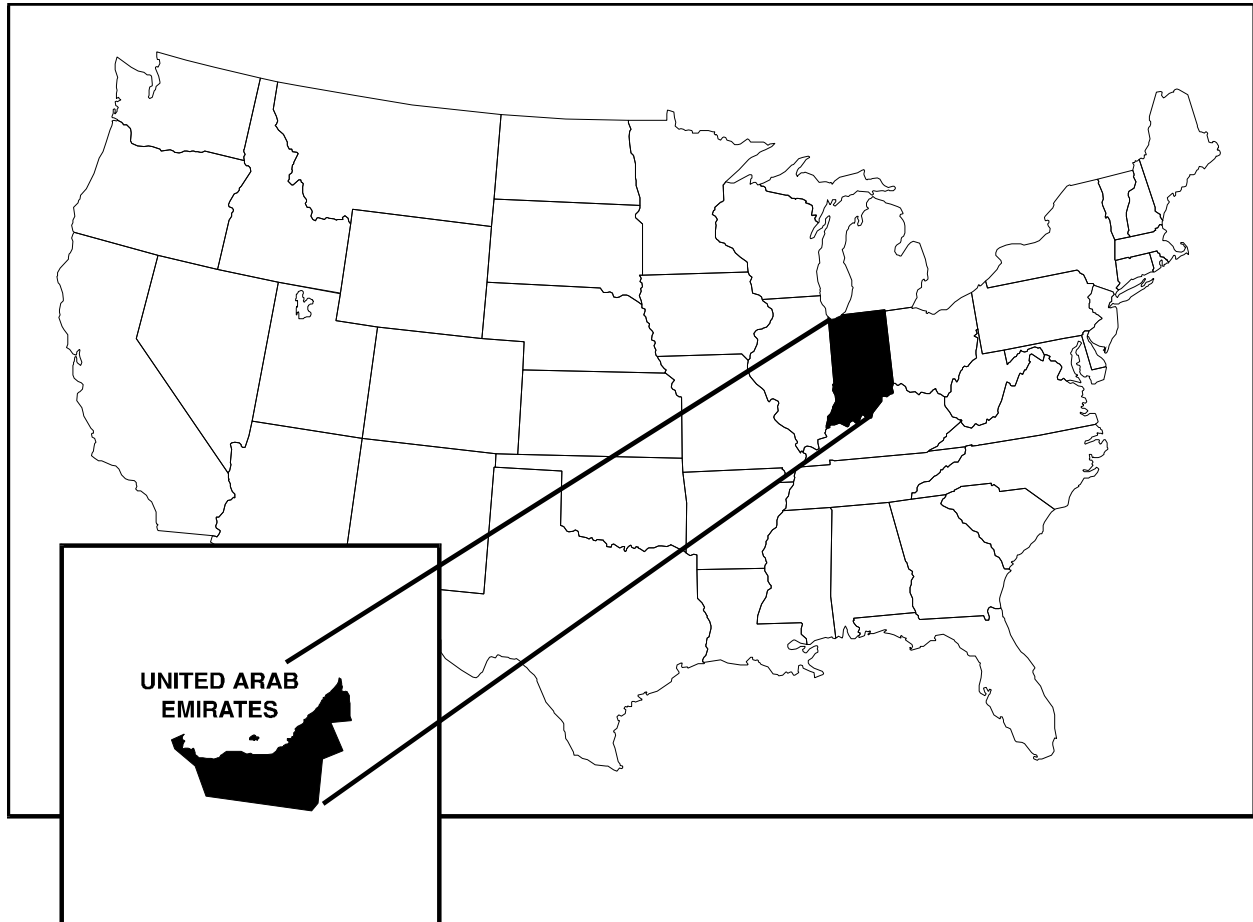
5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 3 Sep 71--Independence Day (from U.K.)

6. Customs

- In 1993, *"the majority of laborers and middle-level employees were foreigners. All foreign workers require sponsorship by a Qatari..."* (Country Study)

Gulf States: United Arab Emirates (ah-MEER-its)



<u>Population</u>	2,807,610
% under 15 years	35%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:12
Radio	1:5
Phone	1:2
Newspaper	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	70/75
Hospitals	1:292
Doctors	1:618
IMR	21:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$22,480
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	71%

1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 96% (Shi'a--16%)
- Christian, Hindu, other 4%

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Emirian Arab--19%
- Arab (other)--23%
- S. Asian--50%
- Other expatriats--8%
- Less than 20% of the population are UAE citizens.

• *"Foreigners, of whom the majority are male workers, account for 80% of the population."* (Country Study)

3. Gender Issues

- No suffrage
- Women are 6.2% of the workforce. Since the discovery of oil, expanded opportunities for women in workforce (education and health fields).
- 2:1 women to men ratio at UAE University

4. Conflicts

- Claims for two Gulf Islands (Abu Musa and Tunb) with Iran cause controversy

5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 2 Dec71--Independence Day from the U.K.

6. Customs

- *"...federation of seven separate amirates that had joined together in the winter of 1971-72 to form a single independent country."* (Country Study)

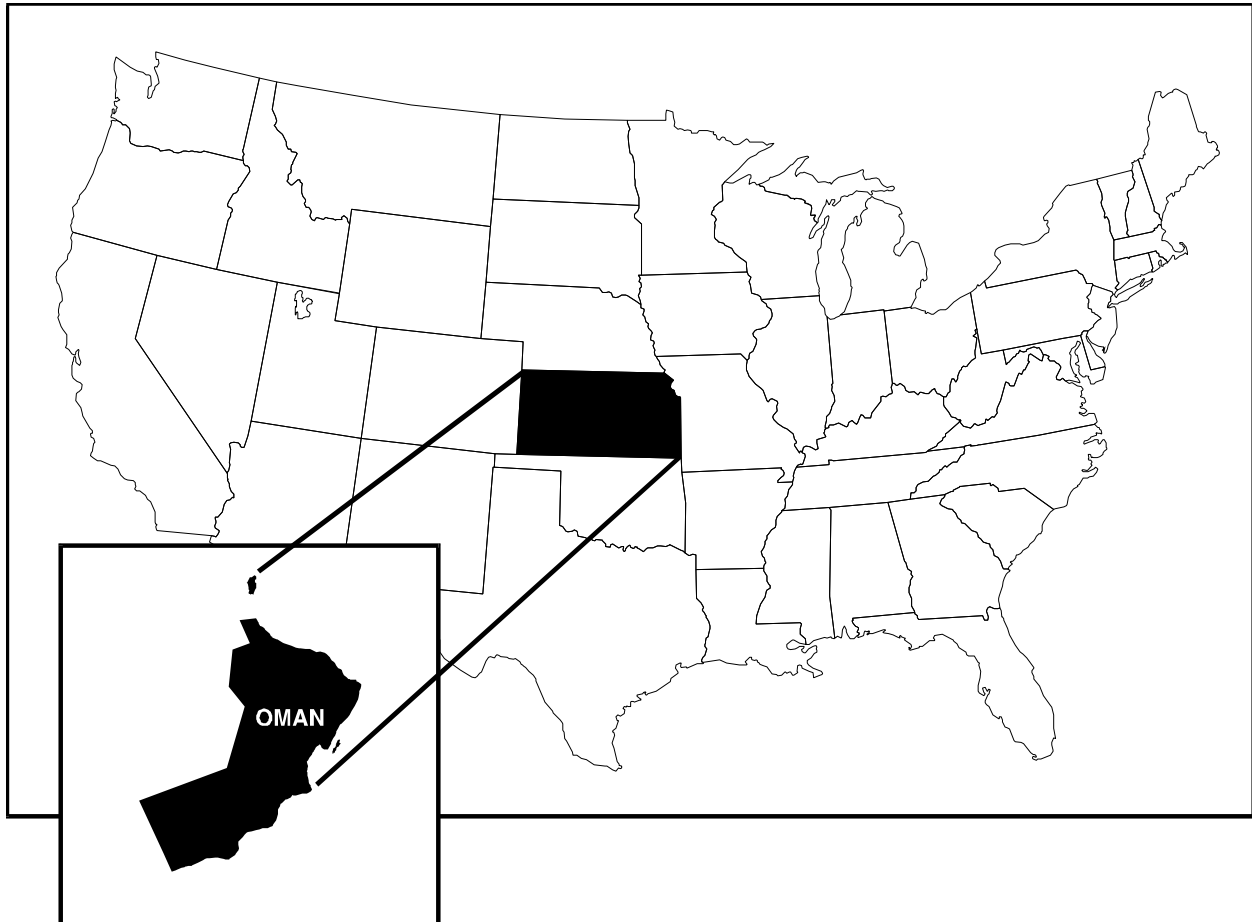
- *"Although varying from amirate to amirate, the degree of religious freedom afforded non-Muslims is greater in the UAE than in Saudi Arabia and Qatar."*

For example, non-Muslims are permitted to worship but not to proselytize. There are several large Christian churches and schools in the UAE, primarily in Dubayy and Abu Dhabi." (Country Study, p. 209.)

7. Sources for Further Study

"One Man's Vision," New York Times, 15 Oct 96, p. A7.

Gulf States: Oman (oh-MAHN)



<u>Population</u>	2,125,089
% under 15 years	46%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:1
Radio	1:2
Phone	1:6
Newspaper	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	68/72
Hospitals	1:380
Doctors	1:1078
IMR	34:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$10,020
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	41%

1. Religious Groups

- Most Omanis are Muslims. Ibadi Islam makes up 75% of this group.

Ibadi Islam traces its history from the Kharijite Shi'a school of thought. In controversy over the assassination of the third caliph (Uthman), part of Ali's army left his camp, thus being referred to as "kharijites" (ones who leave). Kharijites "also became a designation for Muslims who refused to compromise with those who differed from them. Their actions caused the Sunni community to consider them assassins." (Country Study, p. 16.)

"In the eighth century, some Kharijites began to moderate their position. Leaders arose who suppressed the fanatical element...and discouraged their followers from taking up arms against other Islamic leaders...[They] held high standards for personal conduct and spiritual values. One of these religious leaders, or imams, was Abd Allah ibn Ibad...[His] followers, known as Ibadis, became the leaders of Oman." (Country Study p. 17.)

- "Whereas Sunni and Shia traditionally have focused on a single leader, referred to as caliph or imam, Ibadis permit regions to have their own imams." (p. 19).
- "Ibadi leaders usually controlled the mountainous interior [of Oman] while, for the most part, foreign powers controlled the coast." (p. 19)
- Hindus (foreign workers)

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- "Most Omanis are Arabs, although numerous citizens [are] of non-Arab African origin." (Country Study, p. 254.)
- 23 % of the population are foreigners. The foreign community includes Egyptians, Pakistanis, Indians and others.

3. Gender Issues

- A few women are allowed to enlist in the armed forces.

4. Conflicts

- No defined boundary with UAE

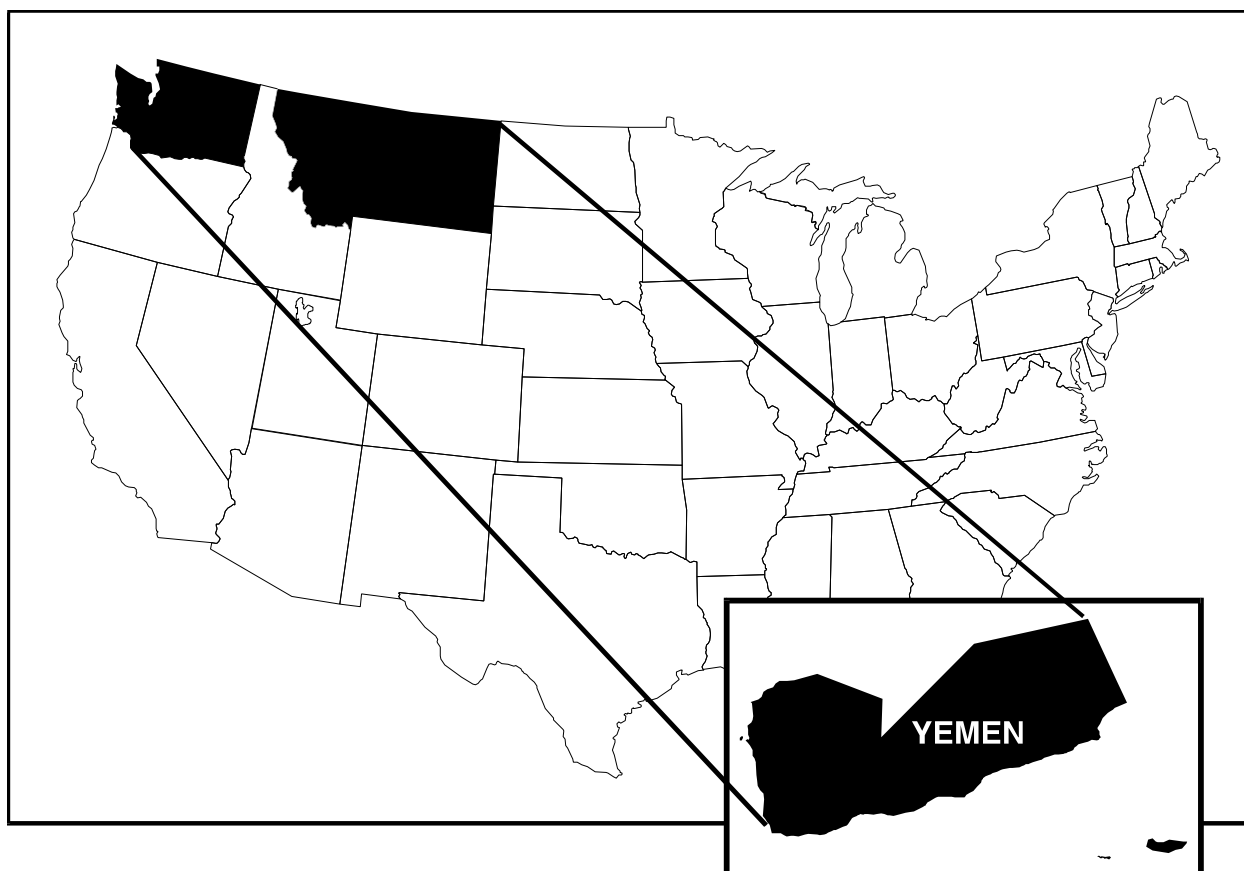
5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 18 Nov 1940, National Day

6. Customs

- *"The gulf states have not granted citizenship freely for two reasons: first, they are reluctant to share wealth with recent arrivals; second, the tribal nature of gulf society does not admit new members easily. A tribe usually traces its lineage to a particular [named] ancestor."* (See Country Study, pp. 37-39, or Unit 9, Ethnic Groups.)

Gulf States: Yemen (YEH-mehn)



<u>Population</u>	14,728,474
% under 15 years	50%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:34
Radio	1:39
Phone	1:83
Newspaper	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	62/64
Hospitals	1:995
Doctors	1:5,531
IMR	58:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$1,995
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	38%

1. Religious Groups

- Muslim

--Sunni (Sha'fi) "In 1985 slightly more than half the citizens of North Yemen and almost all in South Yemen were Sunni Muslims of the Shafii school. The Shafii school follows the teachings of Muhammad ibn Idris al Shafii, a legal scholar who lived from 768-820...Shafii took a moderate position between the Maliki school, which emphasizes hadith as source of law, and the Hanafi school, which depends on...reasoning by analogy from earlier cases...Shafii was extremely factual in his approach to Islamic law, allowing little room for personal opinion or whim; he approached the Qur'an historically and advocated that a jurist should possess a thorough command of the grammar of the language as it was used at the time of the Prophet." (Country Study, pp. 30-31.)

--Shi'a (Zaydi) "Unlike most Shias...the Zaydis assert that Ali was Muhammad's choice because of his personal merits rather than because of some special inheritance that is automatically passed on to descendants..."

The Zaydis believe that the imam must be chosen from among Ali's descendants, or the Ahl al Bayt (People of the House), according to personal merit...The imam is elected at a meeting of three groups that represent the community as a whole: the ulama (religious authorities), tribal chiefs, and community leaders." (Country Study, p. 26.)

- Small Jewish, Christian and Hindu gatherings

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Predominately Arab; Afro-Arab in the western coast; S. Asian in the south; small European elements in large cities

3. Gender Issues

- Suffrage universal 18+
- "Urban women and wealthy rural women tend to experience the strictest seclusion." (Country Study)

- In the former south Yemen in the mid-1980s, women composed 50-60% of the workers on state farms.

- Clitoridectomy (female genital cutting). *"One source reports that female circumcision was 'widespread' in the mid-1980s. As of 1979 clitoridectomy was certainly legal but not encouraged. Clitoridectomy is not prescribed by Islam..." (Country Study, p. 235.)*

4. Conflicts

- Undefined boundary with Saudi Arabia
- N/S Yemen unification signed 29 Mar 79. Formally united 21 May 90. Clan based rivalries led to civil war in 1994. North captured Aden Jul 94. New constitution inaugurated 28 Sep 94.

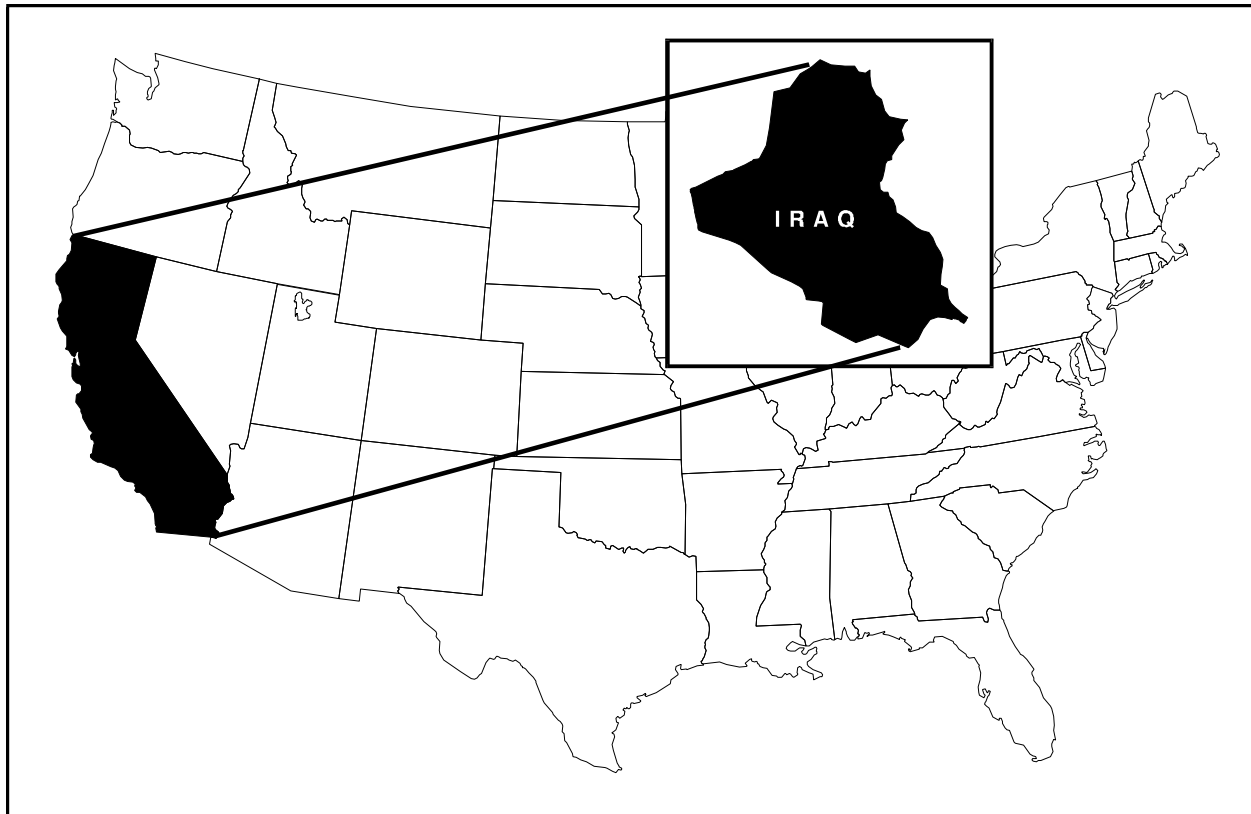
5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 22 May 1990, Proclamation of the Republic

6. Sources for Further Study

Geniesse, Jane, "The View from the Roof of Arabia," New York Times, 3 Oct 96, pp. 12-14.

Iraq (i-RAK, ee-RAHK)



<u>Population</u>	20,643,749
% under 15 years	48%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:19
Radio	1:6
Phone	1:25
Newspaper	37:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	66/68
Hospitals	1:568
Doctors	1:1922
IMR	62:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$2,000
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	89%

1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 97% (20,024,455)
 - Shia (60-65%)
 - Sunni (32-37%)
- Christian and Other 3% (619,313)

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Arab 75-80%
- Kurdish 15-20%. *"The Kurds inhabit the highlands and mountain valleys, and traditionally they have been organized on a tribal basis...The historic enmity between the Kurds and the central Arab government has contributed to the tenacious survival of Kurdish culture."*

The Kurds' most distinguishing characteristic, and the one that binds them to one another, is their language...

The Kurds have been locked in an unremittingly violent struggle with the central government in Baghdad almost since the founding of the Iraqi republic in 1958."
(Country Study, pp. 83-84.)

"The Yazidis (yeh-ZHEE-dees) are of Kurdish stock but are distinguished by their unique religious fusion of elements of paganism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam. They live in small and isolated groups...They are impoverished cultivators and herdsman...Historically, they have been subject to sharp persecution because of their heretical beliefs and practices." (p. 85)

- Turkoman--less than 2%. *"The Turkomans...are village dwellers in the northeast...[who] speak a Turkish dialect (Country Study p. 85.)"*
- Assyrian--less than 1%

"...they speak Aramaic. The Assyrians live mainly in the major cities and in the rural area of northeastern Iraq, where they tend to be professionals and businessmen or independent farmers."

They are Christians, belonging to one of four churches: the Chaldean (Uniate), the Nestorian, the Jacobite or Syrian Orthodox, and the Syrian Catholic. There is also a small number of Armenians." (Country Study, p. 86.)

3. Gender Issues

- Women in labor

"In order to field a sufficient force, [Iran] has mobilized women. Foreign contractors have encountered women supervisors on huge construction projects, women doctors in the hospitals, and even women performing law enforcement roles. This emancipation--extraordinary for an Arab country--was sanctioned by the government, which issued a significant amount of propaganda publicizing the role of women in helping to win the [Iran-Iraq] war.

The government further maintained that after the war women would be encouraged to retain their newfound work roles; this was doubtful, however, because in the same breath the government declared its determination to increase the birthrate." (Country Study, p. 113.)

- Military membership *"Although women were not conscripted...they could be commissioned as officers if they held a health-related university degree, and they could be appointed as warrant officers or NCOs in army medical institutes if they were qualified nurses.*

The vast majority of women in the armed forces held administrative or medical-related positions, but an increasing number of women performed in combat functions after 1981. Women were serving in combat roles both in the air force and in the Air Defense Command in 1987." (Country Study, p. 221)

- Shi'a/Sunni difference.

"Shi'a practice differs from that of Sunnis concerning both divorce and inheritance in that it is more favorable

to women. The reason for this reputedly is the high esteem in which Fatima (FAHL-tee-mah), the wife of Ali and the daughter of the Prophet, was held." (Country Study, p. 95.)

4. Conflicts

- Iran/Iraq War

"Iran and Iraq restored diplomatic relations in 1990 but are still trying to work out written agreements settling outstanding disputes from their eight-year war concerning border demarcation, prisoners-of-war, and freedom of navigation and sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab waterway." (CIA)

"Viewed from a historical perspective, the outbreak of hostilities in 1980 was, in part, just another phase of the ancient Persian-Arab conflict that had been fueled by twentieth-century border disputes." (Country Study, p. 65.)

"The war...had serious effects on Iraqi society, exacerbating the strained relations of Iraqi Arabs with the leading minority, the Kurds. The war, however, exerted a positive influence by promoting a greater sense of national unity, by diminishing differences between Shias and Sunnis, and by improving the role of women." (Country Study, p. xxx.)

- Kuwait Invasion

"In November 1994, Iraq formally accepted the UN-demarcated border with Kuwait which had been spelled out in Security Council Resolutions...this formally ends earlier claims to Kuwait and to Bubiyan and Warbah islands." (CIA)

Saddam Husayn: Demonstrating great courage and a boldhearted perseverance to defend honor were two

virtues Saddam Husayn possessed during the conflict. Standing his ground, surviving, and seeing his enemy go down in elections (President Bush) gives Husayn grounds for admiration in many circles. (See Farah, p. 11.)

- Potential dispute with Turkey for Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

• *"The Kurds have been locked in an unrelentingly violent struggle with the central government in Baghdad almost since the founding of the Iraqi republic in 1958."* (Country Study, p. 84.)

5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 3 Oct 1932--Independence from the League of Nations mandate under Britain
- 17 Jul 68--Anniversary of the Revolution

6. Customs

- Secular state, though government capitalized on the religious appeal during Desert Storm
- "[The] phrase ALLAHU AKBAR (uhl-lah-hoo AHK-bar, God is Great) in green Arabic script--Allahu to the right of the middle star [of the Iraqi flag] and Akbar to the left of the middle star--was added in January 1991 during the Persian Gulf crisis..." (CIA)
- Baath party (BAAH-th, Arab Socialist Resurrection--unified democratic socialist Arab nations). Socialize the economy and create a unified Arab nation. The party derived from the founding congress in Damascus in 1947.

7. Sources for Further Study

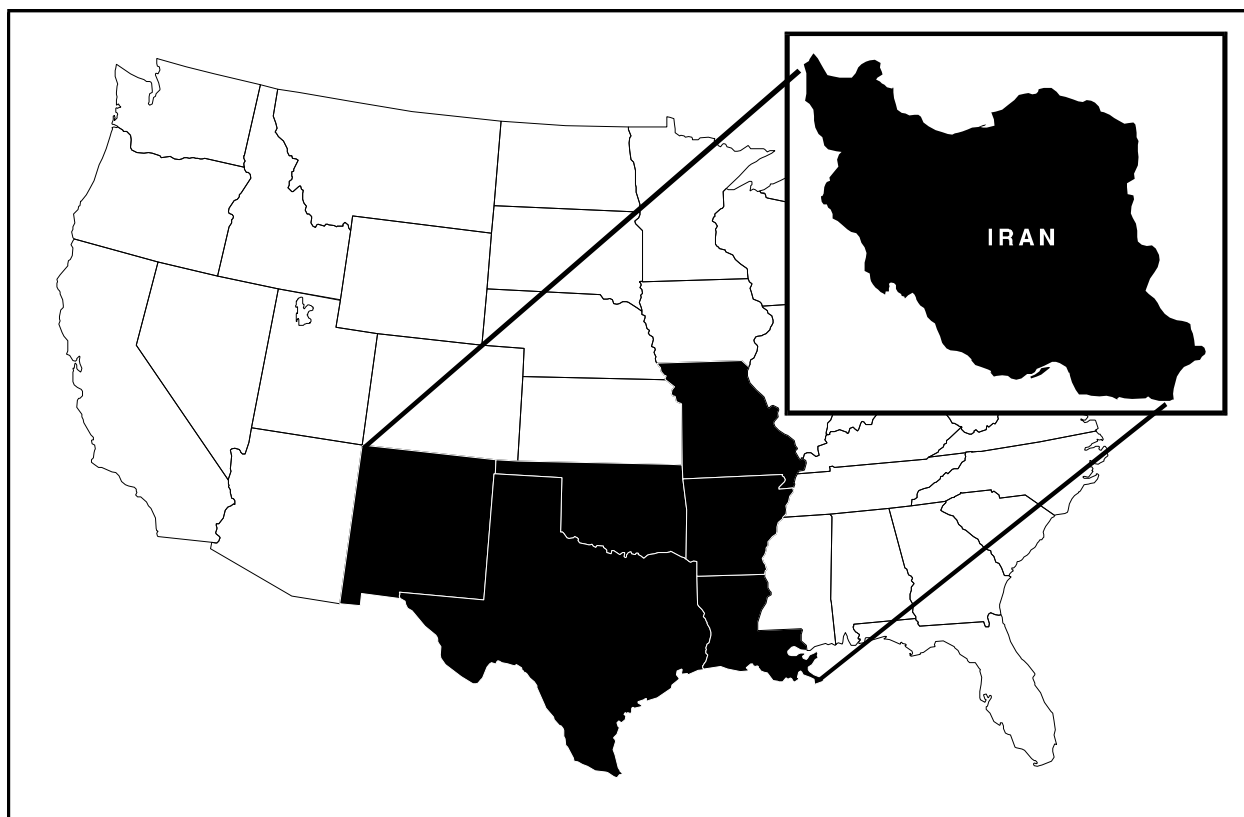
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MacFarquhar, Neil, "After War and Blockade, Crime Frays Life in Iraq," New York Times, 18 Oct 96, p. A3.

MacFarquhar, Neil, "Iraq at Play: Eliza Doolittle is a Belly Dancer," New York Times, 11 Oct 96, p. A3.

Severy, Merle, "Iraq, Crucible of Civilization," National Geographic, May 91, pp. 103-115.

Iran



<u>Population</u>	64,625,455
% under 15 years	45%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:26
Radio	1:5
Phone	1:16
Newspaper	27:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	66/68
Hospitals	1:650
Doctors	1:2000
IMR	55:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$4,780
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	66

1. Religious Groups

- Shi'a Muslim--95% (63,979,000). Distinctive Shi'a practice includes:

- Seven pillars of faith.

In addition to the five pillars shared with all Muslims, most Shia practitioners add (6) Jihad--the crusade to protect Islamic lands, beliefs and institutions and (7) the requirement to do good works and avoid all evil thoughts, words and deeds.

- Five basic principles of faith (the first three being shared by most all Muslims). (1) One God; (2) the Prophet Muhammad is the last of the line of prophets chosen by God; (3) the resurrection of the body and soul;

(4) Divine justice will reward/punish believers according to their actions and will; (5) the Twelve Imams, successors to Muhammad, were sinless and free from error, chosen by God through Muhammad.

- Imamate (ee-MAHM-uh). A spiritual and political leader combined.

- The Twelfth Imam

"Shias...believe that the Twelfth Imam has never died, but disappeared from earth in about A.D. 939. Since that time the greater [state of hiding] of the Twelfth Imam has been in force and will last until God commands the Twelfth Imam to manifest himself on earth again as the Mahdi, or Messiah.

Shias believe that during the greater [hiding] of the Twelfth Imam he is spiritually present--some believe that he is materially present as well--and he is besought to reappear in various invocations and prayers." (Country Study, p. 117.)

- Other distinctive religious obligations include observance of the month of martyrdom, Moharram (muh-HAHR-rahm), and pilgrimages to the shrines of the

Twelve Imams and their various descendants. Moharram observance commemorates the death of the Third Imam, Husayn near Karbala, Iraq in A.D. 680.

- Mujtahids (MUZH-tah-hid) are religious leaders of highest authority. They are scholars in the science of religion (the Qur'an, traditions of Muhammad and the imams, legal practice and theology) and demonstrate the ability to decide on matters of religious conduct.

"Since the mid-nineteenth century it has been common for several mujtahids concurrently to attain prominence and to attract large followings. During the twentieth century, such mujtahids have been accorded the title of ayatollah (a-yat-ool-LAH)." (Country Study, p. 124.)

- Sunni Muslim--4%

• Bahais (bah-HI): (350,000). Bahais lived scattered in small communities throughout Iran, being concentrated in Tehran. They originated during the 1840s as a Shia reformist movement. *"By the early twentieth century, Bahaism had evolved into a new religion that stressed the brotherhood of all peoples, equality of the sexes, and pacifism."* (Country Study, p. 127.)

- Christian (282,000). Armenian and Assyrian Christians are official religious minorities. Anglicans receive persecution.

• Jewish (50,000). The Iranian Jewish community is one of the oldest in the world.

• Zoroastrian (zohr-oh-AS-tree-ahn):(32,000). Concentrated in Tehran, Kernan and Yazd, Zoroastrian belief developed in Iran in the seventh century B.C. It is an official Iranian religious minority. The Iranian speaking prophet Zarathustra founded the religion.

- Distinctive beliefs/practice includes:

- A dualistic universe, with forces of good and evil.

- There is a beginning and ending of the world with a final battle resulting in eternal life for the good and annihilation for the evil.
- Yasna (YAS-nuh), the main rite of worship, takes place in fire temples.
- The rite of passage is initiation into the religion at 15 years of age.

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Persian 51%
- Azerbaijani (ah-zahr-bi-JAH-nee), 24%. These Turkic speaking peoples live mostly in the northwestern corner of the country. Their language, Azarbaijani, is similar to Turkish except with different accents. Lifestyle of both urban and rural Azarbaijanis do not differ significantly from that of Persians.
- Gilaki and Mazandarani 8%. (Persian dialect speaking peoples)
- Kurd 7%
- Arab 3%
- Lur (and Bakhtiari) 2%. (Shia Muslims who speak an Indo-Iranian language)
- Baloch 2%. These semi-nomadic farmers live near the Pakistan and Afghanistan borders. The poorest and least educated of Iranian ethnic groups, Baloch peoples are difficult for the government to control.
- Turkmen 2%

3. Gender Issues

- Women were active participants in the revolution which toppled the Shah. Large numbers participated in street demonstrations.

- The government imposes the Hejab (HEHZH-yuh, properly modest attire for women) to enforce the traditional role of women in secular society.
- Since 1986, women receive government encouragement to be part of the military.

4. Conflicts

- Periodic flare-ups with the UAE arise over Abu Musa Island in the Persian Gulf.
- Non-Islamists. Presently, a deadly silence is imposed (by the ruling clerics) on all non-Islamists. This silence applies not only to secular Iranians but also to Islamic groups not sharing the regime's Islamic vision as well.
- Since 1979, the Bahai sect receives government persecution.

5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 1 APR 1979--Proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

6. Customs

- Official language is Farsi (Persian)
- Progressive Islamic reformers in Iran either (1) seek to gradually open the system from within or (2) quietly question whether militant Islamic government is workable in the modern world (see God Has Ninety-Nine Names, p. 467).

7. Sources for Further Study

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MacFarquhar, Neil, "With Mixed Feelings, Iran Tiptoes to Internet," New York Times, 8 Oct 96, p. A4.

Rachlin, Nahid, Married to a Stranger, (San Francisco: City Lights, 1983). Engrossing novel describing women's issues in Iran during the seventies.

Sciolino, Elaine, "Casting a New Iran in the Old Role of a Friend," New York Times, 22 Sep 96, p. E4.

Sciolino, Elaine, "In World Flux, a Constant: U.S. and Iran Still Foes," New York Times, 29 Dec 96, p. A8.

Vocabulary List: Country Area Studies-- Gulf States

ALLAHU AKBAR (uhl-lah-hoo AHK-bar) God is Great

Amir (ah MIR) Commander, ruler, prince

Assyrians Iraqi ethnic group who live in major cities or rural northeastern Iraq. Often professionals, business advocates or independent farmers. Most are Christian.

Ayatollah (a-yat-ool-LAH) Mujtahids who have attained prominence and attracted a large following.

Baath Party (BAAH-th) Arab Socialist Resurrection party which unified the democratic socialist Arab nations. Its founding congress was in Damascus in 1947.

Bahais (bah-HAH-ee) Originally a Shia reformist movement, this group developed into a religion stressing brotherhood of all, equality of sexes and pacifism.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Title taken in 1986, by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. No longer is he called "Your Majesty" or other secular titles.

Expatriates Persons who live apart or withdraw from their native land or country

Farsi (Persian) Official language of Iran

Fatima (FAHL-tee-mah) Wife of Ali and daughter of the Prophet Muhammad

Hejab (HEHZH-yuh) Properly modest attire for women used to enforce traditional women's roles in secular society

Husayn (hoo-SAYN) The third Imam, killed near Karbala in Iraq in A.D. 680. His death is especially remembered by Shi'a Muslims.

Ibadi Islam (ah-ee-BAD-ah) Traces its history from the Kharijite Shi'a school of thought. In Oman during the eight century, one of the leaders who surfaced to suppress fanatical elements of the Kharijite school was Abd Allah ibn Ibad. His followers became known as Ibadis, the leaders of Oman.

Imamate (ee-MAHM-uh) Spiritual and political leader combined. Prominent in Iraq.

Kharijite Shi'a Islam (ah khahr-ee-JEEN) In controversy over the assassination of the third caliph (Uthman), part of Ali's army left his camp, thus being referred to as 'kharijites' (ones who leave). Kharijites also became a designation for Muslims who refused to compromise with those who differed from them. Their actions caused the Sunni community to consider them assassins.

Kurds Iraqi ethnic group which inhabit highlands and mountain valleys. Kurds speak a distinct language.

Mahdi (MEH-dee) Messianic figure, a reappearance of the Twelfth Imam who is presently in hiding

Moharram (muh-HAR-rahm) Month during which many Shia Muslims remember the martyrdom of Husayn and his 70 followers.

Mujtahids (MUZH-ta-hids) Religious leaders (Shia) of the highest authority...Scholars in the science of religion who also demonstrate an ability to decide on matters of religious conduct.

Patriarchal Having to do with the father or ruler of a clan or family; one of the male founders of the family

Suffrage The right to vote

Yazidis (yeh-ZHEE-dee) Iraqi Kurdish ethnic group which fuses elements of paganism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam. Impoverished and isolated, often they have experienced persecution.

Zoroastrian (zohr-oh-AS-tree-uhn) Iranian religious minority founded by Zarathustra. Good/evil, final great battle and fire temple rites (Yasna) are some of its distinct beliefs.

Review Quiz: Area Country Studies-- Gulf States



Part 1--Matching

Place the letter of the most correct response in the blank provided.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. _____ Patriarchal | A. God is Great. |
| 2. _____ Custodian of the Holy Mosques | B. Commander, ruler, prince. |
| 3. _____ Suffrage | C. Iraqi ethnic group who live in major cities or rural northeastern Iraq. Often professionals, business advocates, or independent farmers. Most are Christian. |
| 4. _____ Expatriates | D. Mujtahjids who have attained prominence and attracted a large following. |
| 5. _____ Ibadi Islam | E. Arab Socialist Resurrection party which unified the democratic socialist Arab nations. Its founding congress was in Damascus in 1947. |
| 6. _____ Kharijite Shia | F. Originally a Shia reformist movement, this group developed into a religion stressing brotherhood of all, equality of sexes and pacifism. |
| 7. _____ Amir | G. Title taken in 1986, by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. No longer is he called "Your Majesty" or other secular titles. |
| 8. _____ Kurds | |
| 9. _____ Yazidis | |
| 10. _____ Assyrians | |
| 11. _____ Fatima | |
| 12. _____ ALLAHU AKBAR | |
| 13. _____ Baath Party | |
| 14. _____ Imamate | |
| 15. _____ Mahdi | |
| 16. _____ Moharram | |

Unit 13--Section 3: Country Area Studies--Gulf States

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 17. _____ Husayn | H. Persons who live apart or withdraw from their native land or country. |
| 18. _____ Mujtahids | |
| 19. _____ Ayatollah | I. Official language of Iran. |
| 20. _____ Bahais | J. Wife of Ali and daughter of the Prophet Muhammad. |
| 21. _____ Zoroastrian | |
| 22. _____ Hejab | K. Properly modest attire for women used to enforce traditional women's roles in secular society. |
| 23. _____ Farsi | |
- L. The third Imam, killed near Karbala in Iraq in 680 AD. His death is especially remembered by Shia Muslims.
- M. Traces its history from the Kharijite Shi'a school of thought. In Oman during the eighth century, one of the leaders who surfaced to suppress fanatical elements of the Kharijite school was Abd Allah ibn Ibad. His followers became known as Ibadis, the leaders of Oman.
- N. Spiritual and political leader combined. Prominent in Iraq.
- O. In controversy over the assassination of the third caliph (Uthman), part of Ali's army left his camp, thus being referred to as "kharijites" (ones who leave). Kharijites also became a designation for Muslims who refused to compromise with those who differed from them.
- P. Iraqi ethnic group which inhabits highlands and mountain valleys. This group speaks a distinct language.

- Q. Messianic figure, a reappearance of the Twelfth Imam who is presently in hiding.
- R. Month during which many Shia Muslims remember the martyrdom of Husayn and his 70 followers.
- S. Religious leaders (Shia) of the highest authority...Scholars in the science of religion who also demonstrate an ability to decide on matters of religious conduct.
- T. Having to do with the father or ruler of a clan or family; one of the male founders of the family.
- U. The right to vote.
- V. Iraqi Kurdish ethnic group which fuses elements of traditional belief, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam. Impoverished and isolated, often they have experienced persecution.
- W. Iranian religious minority founded by Zarathustra. Good/evil, final great battle and fire temple rites (Yasna) are some of its distinct beliefs.

Part 2--Multiple Choice Place the letter of the most correct answer in the blank provided.



1. _____ Saudi Arabia follows which school of Islamic thought?
- A. Kharijite Shia
 - B. Wahhabi Sunni
 - C. Mahdi Triumphalism

Unit 13--Section 3: Country Area Studies--Gulf States

2. _____ What gulf country has the highest percentage of women who work outside the house?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Kuwait
- C. Bahrain

3. _____ In what two Middle East states do foreigners outnumber native workers?

- A. Jordan and Syria
- B. Qatar and UAE
- C. Yemen and Djibouti

4. _____ In what gulf country is the highest degree of religious freedom given to non-Muslims?

- A. Oman
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. UAE

5. _____ The most distinguishing characteristic of Kurdish culture is their

- A. clothing style.
- B. mode of transportation.
- C. language.

6. _____ After Desert Shield/Storm/Farewell, some Middle East peoples look on Saddam Husayn in heroic terms because he displayed _____ against many major world powers.

- A. tactical competence
- B. courage and willingness to uphold honor

7. _____ What Iranian Islamic school of thought believes the 12 imams to be sinless and free from error?

- A. Sunnis
- B. Shias
- C. Bahais

8. _____ Some Iranian Shia Muslims look to the Twelfth Imam to manifest himself on earth again as the _____.

- A. Ayatollah
- B. Grand Imam
- C. Mahdi

9. _____ What Middle East country traces its religious history from the Kharijite (ones who leave) school of thought?

- A. Tunisia
- B. Oman
- C. Syria

10. _____ One of the reasons some gulf states do not freely grant citizenship is

- A. their historic non-cosmopolitan character.
- B. their dislike of outsiders.
- C. the historic clan nature of gulf society which traces lineage to a particular ancestor.

11. _____ What best describes clan leadership style?

- A. "All power rests in one."
- B. "First among equals"--collective leadership.
- C. "First born always rules."

12. _____ In Iraq, what was not a consequence of the Iran/Iraq war?

- A. Strained Arab/Kurd relations
- B. Promotion of national unity
- C. Stifled position of women

13. _____ The Bahai faith originated in

- A. Iraq.
- B. Iran.
- C. Israel.

14. _____ Zoroastrian faith is an official religion of

- A. Egypt.
- B. Afghanistan.
- C. Iran.

15. _____ The official language of Iran is

- A. Arabic.
- B. Farsi.
- C. Pashtun.



Part 3--True or False

Place the correct letter (T or F) in the blank provided.

1. ____ In Saudi Arabia, many of the restrictions upon women are of recent (last 20-25 years) origin.
2. ____ In Kuwait, only 10 percent of all citizens are eligible to vote.
3. ____ In the Gulf, the existence of ruling families is a good example of the importance of Arab clans in the region.
4. ____ Islam encourages and advocates female genital cutting.
5. ____ The Iran/Iraq war contributed much to the emancipation of Iraqi women.
6. ____ In Iraq, Shia Islam divorce/inheritance practice is much more favorable to women than Sunni Islam.
7. ____ Seen in historical light, the Iran/Iraq war was but another manifestation of the ancient Persian/Arab conflict.
8. ____ The phrase ALLAHU AKBAR (God is Great) has been a part of the Iraqi flag since the 1950s.
9. ____ Iran does allow some Christian minorities.
10. ____ Women were active participants in the revolution which toppled the Shah of Iran.



"Think about why life is good."